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XX. Borraginaceæ.

57. Lithospermum arvense.

XXI. Polemoniaceæ.

58. Phlox subulata.
59. Pyxidanthera barbulata.

XXII. Gentianaceæ.

60. Obolaria Virginica.

XXIII. Aristolochiaceæ.

61. Asarum Canadense.

XXIV. Lauraceæ.

62. Sassafras officinale.
63. Benzoin odoriferum.

XXV. Myricaceæ.

64. Comptonia asplenifolia.

XXVI. Araceæ.

65. Arisæma triphyllum.
66. Orontium aquaticum.

XXVII. Lilliaceæ.

67. Erythroneum Americanum

XXVIII. Melanthaceæ.

68. Hellonias bullata.

In all—68 species.

In addition,
Viola rotundafolia.
Acer saccharinum.
Diospyros Virginiana.

May 8th.

Mr. Lea, President, in the Chair.

Forty-four members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

"Contributions to American Lepidopterology, No. 4," by Brackenridge Clemens, M. D.

"Notes on American Land Shells, No. 6," and "Descriptions of new species of Pulmonata," by Wm. G. Binney; and

"A list of the fresh-water Shells of Wisconsin," by J. A. Lapham.

And were referred to Committees.

Mr. Aubrey H. Smith read the following extracts from a letter from Mr. Alex. H. Smith, of Solano Co., California, dated March 25th, 1860, on the habits of the Beaver.

"This winter I have had an opportunity of observing somewhat the habits of the Beaver. You know that this cunning little animal is famed for his industry and bold engineering. About the middle of our land there is a large slough seventy feet wide and very deep, running back into the country. In the progress of our work, it became necessary to stop it off and lay a large sluice to drain it, which was done in a complete manner.

At the head of the slough, two miles away, the beavers had their settlement. When the water fell away from their houses and would not return, as usual, they seemed to have sent a delegation down to see what was the matter. For several successive mornings we found a dam built across the race leading to the sluice, quite skilfully made with sticks and *tulés*, and cemented with mud. One of the men agreed to watch for them with the hope of securing their skins, which are of some value. The night was bright moonlight. Four beavers came down examining either bank carefully. One of the party always remained in the water and seemed to be the commander, and would turn from the one to the other to see that each did his duty. At length they reached the dam, still observing the same caution. The three examiners came out and went all over it and into the sluice, chattering the while to their companion in the water. Finally they seemed satisfied that it was past their skill and went off. Since then we have had no further trouble with them. When the man was asked why he did not shoot, he said, 'he did'nt want to shoot the pretty little creeters, he wanted to see what they were going to do.' I could not help being pleased with his humanity and love of science."

Mr. Lea mentioned that he had recently received a letter from Dr. Showalter of Uniontown, Alabama, in which he mentions that specimens of *Physa* (*gyrina*) Say, which he sent on, were obtained in an open neglected cistern, and in a trough of water supplied by an Artesian well ten miles from the town. Dr. S. expressed his surprise that these *Physæ* should find their homes so soon at these Artesian wells. There are no streams or pools near to these wells, but in a few years after they are bored and water supplied, these shells may with certainty be found. Mr. Lea went on to mention that he had nearly 30 years ago found an undescribed species of *Lymnæa*, accompained by *Physa heterostropha* Say, in a small artificial pond on the high grounds near to the Falls of Schuylkill, about four miles north of Market Street, now within the limits of this City. He published an account of it in April 1834, in the Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. under the name of *acuta*. The pond was small and dug out for 1½ to 2 feet deep, simply for the supply of rain water for cattle. Afterwards it dried up and the shells were no longer to be obtained there. He never found this *Lymnæa* in, any other habitat; but many years subsequently, Dr. Ingalls, of Greenwich, N. Y., near to Lake Champlain, sent him several specimens of what he regarded as a new *Lymnæa*, but which was at once recognised as the *acuta*, heretofore found only in the one habitat near the Falls of Schuylkill. In the minds of some zoologists a difficulty exists as to existence of species in such constricted, isolated points as mentioned above, but that difficulty in Mr. Lea's mind was done away with under the belief that very young molluscs may be transported on the feet of birds from distant points, or on those of cattle going to drink from one place to another. The idea of spontaneous generation could not of course be for one moment admitted.

Mr. Lea also read an extract of a letter from Dr. Lewis, of Mohawk, N. Y., giving an account of some meteorological phenomena, and exhibited a diagram of thermal curves traced by the self-registering thermometer of Dr. Lewis.

Prof. R. E. Rogers stated that he had recently received a letter from Western Pennsylvania, communicating the intelligence that some of the *Petroleum* wells had already begun to show a diminished yield of *Oil*, a fact in confirmation of an apprehension which he had expressed at a former meeting of the Academy, that when the Artesian borings became more numerous in the favorite localities, there was a probability of such a result.

He regarded the circumstance of even a small reduction in the supply of the oil, from any of the wells, at this early stage of the enterprise in that region, as very significant, and suggestive of the fear that, remunerative as these wells may at present prove to be, it may not be prudent to base permanent calculations upon them.

In connection with the subject, Prof. Rogers described the approved process by which the illuminating and lubricating Coal Oils are manufactured, and detailed the characteristics which seemed to be requisite to render any oil-making material profitably available for the purpose.